

From: brichter
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 12:09am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement.

To whom it may concern:

As a working American citizen I wanted to write a message explaining how displeased I am with the Microsoft Settlement.

If someone does nothing about this and the settlement sticks, we as Americans will suffer in the long run.

I do not agree with 80% of what is in the settlement. I live in Illinois and believe it was a big mistake and letdown for Ryan to agree with the proposed settlement. I really don't think he even read it.

Let me just take one single portion quoted from an article:

Section III(J)(2) contains some very strong language against not-for-profits. Specifically, the language says that it need not describe nor license API, Documentation, or Communications Protocols affecting authentication and authorization to companies that don't meet Microsoft's criteria as a business: "... (c) meets reasonable, objective standards established by Microsoft for certifying the authenticity and viability of its business, ..."

What this means is that projects that have BUILT the Internet into what it is today, Microsoft can now cut out of the picture if they choose.

I will not comment on all the other sections of the settlement, there are so many I do not agree with.

Most technical people I speak with believe this settlement is a free ticket for Microsoft to continue their behavior and make it even harder for people that want to help the technical movement for the better and that are not financially driven.

Microsoft went into these trials with the possibility of being broken up into several companies and feared loosing ground. Now they come out clean with a license to kill basically.

You have to remember your roots. The roots are NOT Microsoft. They have mixed in like weeds here and are overtaking everything that was put in place and changing everything out for their financial gain.

Again I want to stress how disappointed I am in our government concerning this issue.

Thank God there are several states that do not think Microsoft is the magic bullet to bring us out of a recession.

Please add my letter to the Federal Register that I have been told will be built based on feedback.

Thank you very much,

Brian Richter

Illinois